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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Belorussian SSR)/ Poland	REPORT	
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MGB Headquarters

1. In 1948, MGB headquarters in Brest (N 52-06, E 23-43) were located on a main street running north and south in the central or western part of the city. The building occupied by the MGB was said, by its prisoner-inmates, to have been the former Polish forestry (Nadlesnictwo) building. It was a large, square, three-story structure which had many windows and an inside courtyard. Interrogations were conducted on the second floor and prison cells were located in the cellar. The building was located on the west side of the street. On its right were a two or three-story hospital and a two or three-story bank building. Across the street from the bank was a church constructed of wood.
2. The following officials at the MGB headquarters
 - a. Colonel Rogov - He was chief of the MGB in Brest in 1948.
 - b. Captain Panamarov - He was an MGB interrogator in Brest in 1948.
 - c. Lt. Paramanov He was an MGB interrogator in Brest in 1948.
3. a General Sokolovsky who was said to be chief (nachalnik) of the city of Brest.
4. In addition to receiving their salaries, prisoners believed that MGB interrogators at the Brest headquarters received an additional 200 rubles for every confession they extracted. For this reason, they were very anxious

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to extract confessions from prisoners even though they were untrue.

5. Methods of interrogation varied from prisoner to prisoner. Though not often beaten, the prisoners were awakened at all hours of night for questioning and were questioned for periods of 24 hours or more without food, drink, or sleep. During these sessions, prisoners were forced to stand with back to wall and arms raised. If weariness caused their arms or chins to drop, a sharp pencil jabbed their elbows or chins. When this type of interrogation did not extract a confession, the prisoner was confined in a "kartser", which was a small, damp, cold, solitary cell without daylight or fresh air, and which was illuminated with a powerful light. In the "kartser", a prisoner was permitted to sleep only five hours daily and was kept under constant observation by the guards.

6. Also used for extracting confessions [redacted] were the "sobachniki" (dog houses) and "rubashki" (sacks). The "sobachnik" was a small box in which a prisoner could neither stand up, lie down, nor sit down fully. The "rubashka" was a sack into which a prisoner was thrust. He was then beaten by jailers with keys or anything else available for 20 or more minutes and was also rolled around. The "sobachnik" and "rubashka" were used to tame down unruly prisoners who showed bravado or tried to beat up any of the officials.

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7. Women, even pregnant ones, were also interrogated in the same manner. Sounds of women crying could often be heard in the womens' prison quarters or in the interrogation rooms.

Mukhavets (Muchawiec) Prison (see sketch on page 4)

8. [redacted] the Mukhavets Prison was administered by the MVD. This was based on the fact that all notices dealing with prison regulations and instructions to prisoners gave the MVD as the issuing authority. Also, guard uniforms at the Mukhavets Prison were invariably of the standard MVD blue and red. Some of the officials at the prison wore blue uniforms with blue trim and one official had a black uniform, including a black hat.

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9. Prisoners considered the treatment at the Mukhavets Prison good according to USSR prison standards. The daily food ration consisted of 450 grams of dark bread, two half-liter issues of thin soup, occasionally some fish, and a piece of sugar and hot water (kipyatok), which was served in the morning. Prisoners were permitted to borrow books and were allowed to spend up to two hours per day walking about in the prison yard or sunning themselves in the roofless outdoor cells. A nurse visited the cells daily.

10. [redacted] prisoners at Brest were sentenced by three different types of courts, one of which was held in the prison, a second in another section of the city, and the third in Moscow.

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- a. Civilian (grazhdanskiy) Court - this court consisted of a judge, a prosecutor, and a council for defense (zashchitnik). The defendant saw his council for defense, who was presumably a lawyer, for the first time when he reached the court to be sentenced. Court proceedings seemed to be a formality because the defendant was not asked any questions but was simply asked if he agreed with the verdict.
- b. Military Tribunal - prisoners sentenced by this court were simply questioned by individuals described as military tribunal prosecutors regarding their confessions and asked to confirm them. Such meetings between prisoners and prosecutors took place within the prison.
- c. Special Councils (OSO - Osoboye Soveshchaniye) - prisoners also called these courts the "troikas" (threesome), as they were believed to consist of three members. Prisoners did not appear before these councils, which sat in Moscow. The prisoners' files, including interrogation reports and confessions, apparently were sent to Moscow by the Brest MGB investigation

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authorities. The OSO then went over the documents, passed sentence, and returned the files with the sentence to the local MGB, which then sent the prisoner off to his permanent place of detention to serve his sentence. Prisoners believed that the OSO sentenced important political prisoners, while the military tribunals sentenced industry and government officials who embezzled large sums of state funds or property. The civilian courts presumably sentenced those accused of minor crimes.

Partisan Activity Around Brest

11. In late 1948, shootings and brawls went on constantly in Brest. There was a constant flow of prisoners into the Mukhavets Prison for black market activities and for pilfering in the railroad yards. It was rumored among the prisoners that partisans occasionally raided Brest at this time. There was much evidence to support these rumors. At various times of the day, truckloads of Soviet soldiers could be heard or seen going down the city streets in great haste. Later, groups of men in peasant dress would be thrown into prison, some of them with gunshot wounds. In addition, quite frequently light and muffled machine gun fire could be heard in the distance which was usually taken as a sign of partisan roundup. At one time, there was a rumor that the MGB had tried to round up all the men at Malorita (N 51-47, E 24-05), a small town about 25 kilometers southeast of Brest, and throw them into prison as partisans. Many of the new and old prisoners at the Mukhavets Prison openly acknowledged that they had been partisans.
12. Most of the partisans held in the Brest prison were from the Polish, Ukrainian, and Belorussian areas of Stanislaw (N 48-56, E 24-42), Tarnopol (N 49-33, E 25-36), Lvov (N 49-51, E 24-02), Przemysl (N 49-45, E 22-48), Rava Ruskaya (N 50-14, E 23-38), Brest (N 52-06, E 23-43), Kobryn (N 52-13, E 24-21), Kovel (N 51-13, E 24-38), Baranovichi (N 53-07, E 26-02), Minsk (N 53-54, E 27-33), Lida (N 53-53, E 25-19), Grodno (N 53-41, E 23-51), and Vilnyus (N 54-41, E 25-18). There were also some partisans in prison from areas in Latvia and Lithuania.
13. The only active partisan organization [redacted] was the NSZ (Narodowe Sily Zbrojne - National Armed Forces) which operated in Eastern Poland near Brest. Only remnants of this organization remained in 1948. The AK (Armja Krajowa - Home Army) and the KN (Konfederacya Narodu - National Confederation) may have been active in scattered actions on the Soviet side of the Bug River but these, and other Polish underground organizations had largely disappeared after the war. Before the hostilities were over, the Soviet Army rounded up many of the partisans and sent them off to the Urals or further east for work. In addition, the Polish government offered three amnesties to partisans which many young partisans accepted. However, many of the partisans who took advantage of these amnesties buried their machine guns and other equipment and surrendered only rifles, pistols, and other light equipment with the hope that the heavier equipment might become useful at a later date. [redacted]

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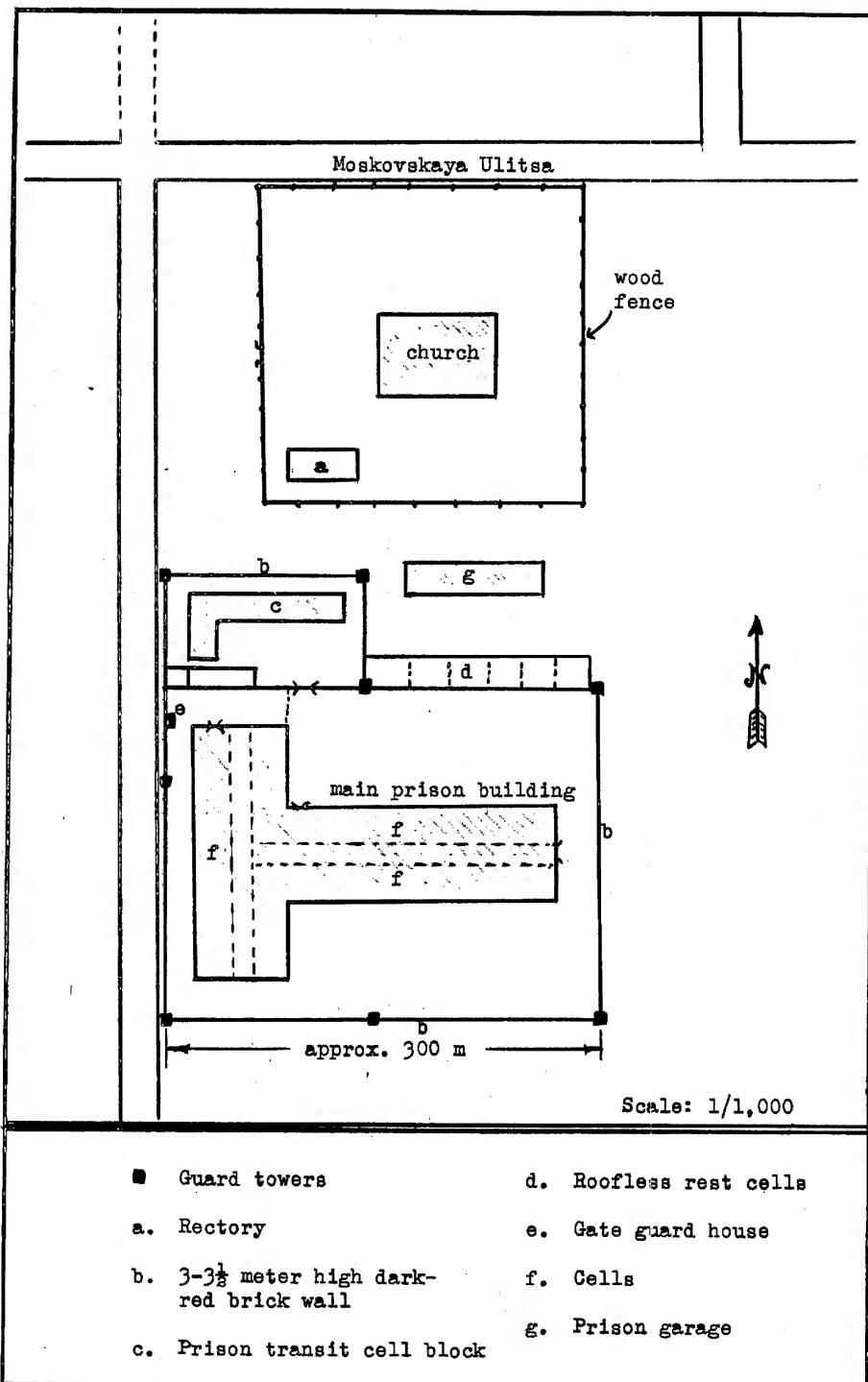
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Mukhavets Prison in Brest

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